With the respects of Dr. J. Stones

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

PROFESSOR PATTISON'S

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

SESSION 1838—9.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE.

A. WALDIE, 46 CARPENTER STREET.

1838.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, Philadelphia, Nov. 22d, 1838.

DEAR SIR,

At a meeting of the class, held in the Anatomical Theatre on Wednesday evening the 21st inst., Mr. C. E. Cotton in the chair, the undersigned were appointed a commitee to wait upon you to request for publication a copy of your Introductory Lecture, setting forth, as it does, most ably and eloquently, the rise, progress, and consummation of JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

While, therefore, we fulfil the wishes of the class, in requesting your lecture for publication, believing that the publication of the same will tend not only to enlarge its reputation, both at home and abroad, but also to fire the youngest mind with zeal and an honourable ambition to excel in a profession which opens to him such an extended field of usefulness; and considering, likewise, the attainments of the lecturer, and the high estimation in which his talents are held by his colleagues and pupils, we cannot, at the same time, refrain from expressing the sincere gratitude we have felt, in being honoured as the committee to wait upon you for this purpose. We are, dear sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servants, and obliged pupils,

C. E. COTTON,
JOHN J. WHITE,
G. W. HARNSBERGER,
I. D. FOWLER,
GEO. D. STEPHENS,
R. B. MERSHON,
J. F. DORROH,
H. JONES,
A. H. OKIE,

Committee.

GRANVILLE S. PATTISON, ESQ., M. D.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, NOV. 22d, 1838.

GENTLEMEN,

To receive the approbation of my pupils has ever afforded me the most sincere gratification; I fear, however, that the kind expression of it conveyed to me by you, on the present occasion, is more than I have merited. The Introductory Lecture delivered on the commencement of the present session, was hurriedly written, and without any view to publication; but as it is in some measure historical of JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, and as you, the representatives of the class, have expressed a wish to have it published, I have no hesitation in complying with your request.

You will oblige me by communicating to your fellow-students my thanks for the kind manner in which they are always disposed to reward me for my efforts to afford them instruction; and with every good wish to yourselves, believe me, gentlemen, to be

Your sincere friend,

GRANVILLE S. PATTISON.

MESSRS. C. E. COTTON, JOHN J. WHITE, &c. *Committee.*

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

As it is the usage of the schools to deliver an introductory discourse in commencing a course of medical lectures, I do not know how I can better occupy the short time allotted to me for this purpose, than by introducing to your favourable regards the institution with which I have the honour to be connected, and requesting your most zealous and devoted attention to that department of medical science which it is my duty and pleasure to teach.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE is, comparatively, an institution of modern date. It was only in the year 1826 that the legislature of Pennsylvania established this medical school. By a supplementary act they authorised the trustees of the Jefferson College, an old and distinguished institution situated in Washington county, in the western part of the state, to create, as a branch of their college, a medical faculty, which faculty they were authorised to place in Philadelphia to deliver courses of medical instruction in that city.

Placed, as the institution was on its creation, under the very shadow of the University of Pennsylvania, of that medical school which to this date had been looked up to as the only legitimate source of medical education—of that school which had spread its branches far and wide over the remotest districts of our country, and had planted its alumni as its fruit in every town and village in the Union: placed, I say, under such unfavourable circumstances, it is

not astonishing that the progress which Jefferson Medical College made for the first few years, in obtaining patronage, was slow, and the prospects of its ultimate success were most unpromising. Yet over all these difficulties and disadvantages it has triumphed. The unparalleled prosperity which within the last few years has crowned the exertions of its Trustees and Professors, teaches a most valuable and consolatory lesson—a lesson applicable not only to institutions, but to individuals. It proves that well directed effort and continued perseverance must and will secure success; no matter what may be the unfavourable circumstances under which the institution or the individual who employs them may be placed.

My young friends, let me beseech you to profit by this lesson. Let not the difficulties which you will necessarily meet with on commencing your studies discourage you. Believe me they are to be overcome, speedily overcome, by diligence and perseverance; and when you have ceased to be any longer connected with this school in the relationship of pupilage; when you have complied with its requisitions, and have earned its honours; when you enter the great arena of life, to struggle with its difficulties and to press forward to secure its rewards, recollect this lesson, and let nothing daunt you. Bear on your shield, as your motto, the maxim of the Latin dramatist:—

"Nil tam difficile est, quin quærendo investigari posset."

And bear in your mind the declaration of the greatest man of modern times, of Napoleon Bonaparte, "*To him that wills and determines a thing shall be, nothing is impossible.*" Be ambitious of virtuous distinction; you cannot fix your standard of eminence too high, for, by persevering diligence and devotion to its realisation, you cannot fail to attain it.

From the unfavourable circumstances to which I have adverted, the infancy of Jefferson Medical College was feeble, and many of its best friends were fearful that the attempt to establish a second medical school in the city of Philadelphia was hopeless, and that they would be obliged to yield to circumstances, and, from the want of patronage, discontinue the lectures. Fortunately, however, it was placed under the government and direction of a board of Trustees, whose energies were not to be daunted, and whose zeal in realising the hopes of its founders was unceasing. They commenced their

operations, prepared for the difficulties with which they had to contend. They judged, and they judged wisely, that those causes which must operate against the success of a new institution, would become every year less and less influential; and that, if they could only offer to the few students who attended the lectures of their school, the very best opportunities for the acquisition of a medical education, which the country could command, that they must and would ultimately succeed. In their efforts to improve the system of medical education, they were untiring. They made themselves acquainted with every improvement, and adopted it. In the appointment of their professors they were most disinterested. Neither personal regard nor political bias had the slightest influence in their decisions. They did not look on their institution as one attached to a particular party. They did not consider it as the medical school of Philadelphia, but as the medical school of the United States. They did not therefore inquire, what were the political tenets of their candidates, nor what was the state or city of their residence. Their inquiries were directed solely to their scientific qualifications, and fitness for the discharge of the duties of the office for which they were applicants. The fact of a candidate being a citizen of Philadelphia, gave him no advantage over a citizen of Maine, of Georgia, of Virginia, or Ohio, or of any other state in the Union. They looked to all the states for patronage, and they justly considered, that the distinguished members of the profession in all of them were equally entitled to their suffrages. In making their elections, their single and sole object was, to secure the services of those whom they considered the best qualified to discharge the duties of the several professorships.

The effects which have resulted from this wise system of legislation, is truly astonishing. Jefferson Medical College has, within a few, a very few years, emerged from its insignificance—from its being a small medical school, scarcely known beyond the street in which it was situated, to occupy a place in public estimation and consequence second to no medical school in the Union. I recollect perfectly, on my arrival at New-York in the year 1832, on my informing some of my medical friends, men of the highest professional distinction in that city, that it was my intention to accept of the professorship of anatomy in Jefferson Medical College; they

inquired where the school was situated: they had never heard of the existence of the institution; and when I replied it was in Philadelphia, they thought I must be mistaken, for they could not believe that a medical school could exist in that city without their being acquainted with the fact. Six short years have elapsed since the period referred to, and I would ask, is there a single physician to be found now—no matter how retired his habits may be—no matter how remote from this city may be the village of his residence—who is not familiar with the existence and with the reputation of our institution? In the graduation of the spring of 1833, the list of our graduates only numbered *sixteen!!* In four years afterwards, our list of graduates outnumbered that of our sister institution, the University of Pennsylvania—of that school with which we were accused of madness for attempting a competition. These facts are mentioned, gentlemen, not for the purpose of vaunting; but surely we are excusable in feeling an honest pride in a triumph so gratifying to ourselves and so honourable to our institution. I am the last man living who would desire, by the recital of these facts, to create in your minds any unkind or ungenerous feelings towards our venerable rival. I cannot doubt but that some, at least, of the respectable professors who occupy the chairs in that school, delight, like ourselves, in the opportunity which has been afforded them for an honourable, an exciting, a glorious rivalry—a rivalry which excites us both to exertions which have produced, and which must continue to produce, the happiest influence on the medical education of our country.

Since last session, certain important alterations have taken place in the constitution of JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, and numerous alterations and improvements been made in the college edifice, to which it may be of interest to call your attention.

As I have already informed you, Jefferson Medical College was originally chartered, merely as a branch of another and a distant institution. A period had arrived, however, in its history, when the trustees considered it desirable that this connection, kind and parental although it had always been, should cease; and that the medical school over which they presided, having during its minority secured to itself a patronage and reputation second to no other institution in the United States, should become independent, and possess

the power to enact its own laws and regulations. For this purpose, an application was made, during the last session of the legislature of the state, for an independent charter; and this, with that liberality which distinguishes the members of the legislature, was at once favourably received, and a new and independent Charter granted to JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, giving it UNIVERSITY PRIVILEGES, and, in a word, conferring on it "*all the advantages and immunities which are possessed by the University of Pennsylvania.*"

The trustees of the institution, having succeeded in the important object of securing for themselves an independent charter, directed their attention, in the next place, to the improvement of the college buildings. The first consideration which occupied their attention was, whether it would be most for the interest of the school, to leave their former edifice, and erect a new college in a different situation, or to have the exterior and interior arrangements of the present building so altered, as to supply every convenience and facility for medical instruction, which modern improvements have suggested. With the view of enabling them to decide this question, they had two plans prepared by a distinguished architect—one for a new college, and another for remodelling and altering the present one. And after a full and deliberate consideration of the advantages and disadvantages which the two plans presented, the advantages of the latter were so numerous, that it was adopted.

I need not tell the class of former years, how completely the college edifice has been metamorphosed, and how admirably the architect has succeeded in realising the wishes of the trustees and professors, and in creating every convenience which could be desired in a medical college.

In endeavouring to secure, my friends, your most devoted attention and your most zealous study for that branch of medical science which I have the honour to teach, I shall follow a course somewhat different from that which is usually adopted by anatomical teachers. I shall not use argument to prove that anatomy is the foundation of all medical science; that on its knowledge rests all physiological and pathological reasonings; that it is the light which enlightens the mind of the physician, in the treatment of the most difficult cases of internal disease; and that it is the compass which enables the surgeon to steer his course calm, collected and unem-

barrassed, through the most trying difficulties into which his professional duties conduct him. All this is admitted. The value of anatomical knowledge in the practice of medicine and surgery, is a fact so apparent, and one so universally allowed, that to employ arguments to enforce it, would be only unnecessarily to encroach on your time and your attention. I shall, therefore, conclude this discourse with two illustrations, in corroboration of the mighty influence which anatomical knowledge exercises in securing for those who assiduously cultivate it, public confidence and professional distinction. I shall present, for your consideration and example, sketches of the characters of two illustrious individuals—men who have gone to their rest, but whose memories shall be for ever embalmed in the grateful recollections of posterity. Need I tell you, gentlemen, to whom I allude? Need I tell you, that it is my intention to present, for your admiration, your emulation, and your imitation, a brief history of the lives and characters of two of the most illustrious benefactors of medical and chirurgical science—men who have been emphatically named, "THE FATHER OF BRITISH," and "THE FATHER OF AMERICAN SURGERY."

John Hunter was a countryman of my own. He was born in Lanarkshire, in Scotland, in the year 1728. He was the son of his father's old age, and was, as is too often the case under these circumstances, so completely the darling of his father, and the idol of his mother, that his elementary education was completely neglected. Indeed it would appear from his biography that when he left Scotland for London, in the year 1748, in the twentieth year of his age, that he did not possess more than the common education of the poorest of his countrymen. I mention these facts, not with the view of depreciating the value of classical acquirements and mathematical studies in the education of those whose lives are to be devoted to the profession of medicine—far, very far from it. In no profession are these acquisitions more to be coveted than in ours; and he who possesses them finds their value inestimable in preparing his mind for the investigation of scientific truth. I advert to the defects of John Hunter's early education merely for the purpose of proving under what disadvantages he commenced his professional studies, and how greatly it was to his credit to contend against and triumphantly overcome them. The course which he adopted to remedy the defects

of his education should be known, that those who may be equally unfortunately situated may go and do likewise. Having, with great assiduity, endeavoured for some time to improve himself in general education, he entered the dissecting room of his brother, the celebrated Dr. William Hunter, where he literally lived for some years, devoting himself with the most untiring zeal to the acquisition of anatomical knowledge. His biographer, Sir Everard Home, remarks—"Mr. Hunter worked for ten years on human anatomy." It was the knowledge of the organisation of the human body, which he acquired during these ten years of unceasing labour, which led to all his future eminence and distinction. It was this knowledge which laid open to him the arcana of physiology, and enabled him to unravel and explain her hidden mysteries. It was this knowledge which enabled him to detect the ingenious fallacies and the unphilosophical absurdities with which his predecessors had obscured pathological truth, and, resting on Nature as his only teacher, and on Induction as his only guide, to dissipate and remove them, and to unveil in all their simplicity the great truths of pathology. It would require volumes to recount all that John Hunter has done in physiological and pathological science; and we must, from the very brief time left, content ourselves with the recital of one of his many improvements in surgery.

Aneurism, until its nature was investigated and its treatment improved by John Hunter, was a disease rarely if ever remedied. There were, it is true, two operations employed for its cure—cutting down on the tumour, and the amputation of the member on which the aneurism was situated. The former operation was so unsuccessful that it had been discontinued; and those few who were cured of the disease by the latter, were left in a state of mutilation. Mr. Hunter's minute anatomical knowledge having made him familiar with the fact that the terminating arterial branches communicated freely with each other, his genius at once suggested to him an operation for the cure of the disease free from the mortal dangers of cutting into the aneurismal sac, and one by which the patient could be relieved, and yet retain, in all its power and usefulness, the member in which the disease was situated. Convinced from his knowledge of the free anastomosis which exists between the arterial branches, that even should the circulation of the blood be interrupted

through its principal channel, the limb below would be freely supplied with this fluid, and the force of the circulation at the same time removed from that portion of the artery which was in a state of disease; he suggested the propriety of tying the arterial branch at a distance from the point where it was diseased, and operated in a number of cases with the happiest success.

In measuring the results which have originated from this single improvement, it is only necessary to examine the history of the treatment of aneurism from that period up to the present time. The only cases of this disease which were then considered as remediable were those of aneurismal tumours situated on the extremities. The numerous aneurisms which occur in the carotids, the subclavians and the iliac arteries, were looked on as irremediable, and the unfortunate individuals so diseased were suffered to linger out in hopelessness and misery an uncertain existence.

Mr. Hunter's improvement in the treatment of aneurisms has opened for modern surgeons a field for their most glorious and triumphant achievements. The carotids, the iliacs, the subclavians, aye, even the innominata itself, have been tied, successfully tied, by the successors of Hunter; and the laurels which have adorned the temples of an Abernethy, and do still adorn those of a Cooper and a Mott, have been planted, as they themselves gratefully acknowledged, by the genius of their immortal master, THE FATHER OF BRITISH SURGERY.

From the consideration of a character so transcendingly great, let us turn to view that of one equally worthy of our admiration and respect,—one with whom many to whom I now address myself have been for years intimately acquainted,—one who, on the commencement of the session of last year, was still alive, and who even then, although worn down by disease and long suffering, would not consent to remain idle, but was to be seen, day after day, in despite of his own pains and infirmities, going forth, through our streets and our alleys, the MINISTER of GOOD, the DISPENSER of the choicest blessings of the HEALING ART.

It is true that this illustrious individual had no personal connection with this institution. It is true that he was the pride and the glory of a sister school which is placed in a position of honourable rivalry. It is true that he was the "Last of the Romans"—the last

of those glorious spirits which achieved for their country an independent system of medical education. S. P. Kuhn, Barton, Rush, and Wistar, had all, many years ago, passed away; but in sinking into the oblivion of the tomb, they left behind them a kindred spirit, a worthy representative of their greatness. So long as PHYSICK lived, the University of Pennsylvania possessed that which no other school in the country could lay claim to—not only a professor, transcendently superior in professional reputation and distinction to any other man in the country, but a professor who was one of the founders of medical education in these United States. When Physick died, truly "a great man had fallen in Israel." But shall we, because their great, their irreparable loss may be considered a gain to us, shall we refuse to mourn with them in their sad bereavement? God forbid! It is true the death of Physick has robbed the University of Pennsylvania of the brightest gem in her crown—it has placed her professors on terms of perfect equality with the professors of the other medical schools of the country—they must be regarded now as *novi homines*, men whose claims for distinction must rest on no extrinsic circumstances, but singly and solely on their own merits and on their own exertions. But it has, at the same time, robbed the profession of its brightest ornament, and the country of one of its noblest benefactors. We sympathise, therefore, with the university in her great loss, and we mourn with her professors, as the member of a common profession, for the calamity which medical and chirurgical science has sustained in the decease of their illustrious colleague.

If the history of HUNTER's life furnishes irresistible and incontrovertible evidence of the vast importance of anatomical knowledge, in securing for those who possess it professional distinction, the history of PHYSICK's testifies with equal force to the same truth.

As it is not my intention to become Dr. Physick's biographer, but merely to offer for your example a sketch of his character, I shall not attempt a detailed account of his early life and the course he pursued in his medical studies. Having finished his studies in Philadelphia, he was placed as a pupil under John Hunter; and he appears to have followed, as his model, his illustrious master. We are informed by the able Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, in a necrological notice of Dr. Physick read by him before

the Philosophical Society, that when Dr. Physick became a pupil of Hunter his preceptor led him into his dissecting room, and pointing to some dead bodies, said, "These are the books the student will learn under my direction." They were books read most studiously by Dr. Physick during the term of his pupilage; and from the zeal and devotion with which he cultivated anatomical studies, he became one of the most distinguished and favourite pupils of Mr. Hunter. Educated under such a master, and actuated like him with an ardent devotion to anatomical pursuits, he became, during his residence with Mr. Hunter, a profound anatomist. And it was here that he laid the foundation of his future eminence and distinction.

To attempt any thing like a detailed account of the discoveries made, and of the improvement introduced into surgery by Dr. Physick, would be impossible on the present occasion. Instead of occupying a lecture, it would require a long series of lectures to detail them; and as I confined myself, in the sketch which I have presented to you of the life and character of "THE FATHER OF BRITISH SURGERY," to a history of one of his many improvements in chirurgical science, I shall follow the same course in the exhibition of the portrait of his illustrious compeer.

The improvements which Dr. Physick introduced into surgery are so numerous, that it is exceedingly difficult to make a selection. Indeed, they are all of them so important, that it requires much consideration to say which of them has exercised the greatest influence in advancing and elevating our science. The one I select is his improvement in the treatment of the *Artificial Anus;* and I hesitate not to assert that there is not to be found in the whole circle of the science any single discovery which indicates higher power of philosophical induction than the one under consideration. It was no random, no chance discovery. It was not, and it could not have been made by accident. It was based on anatomical knowledge, and perfected by inductions derived from her handmaids, physiology and pathology.

To those who are acquainted with the nature of the *Artificial Anus*, it is unnecessary for me to state, that of all the miseries entailed on mankind by the opening of Pandora's box, there is not one of them which, in loathsomeness and suffering, equals the disease under consideration. Even Hope, until the discovery of Dr. Physick, was

unable to offer to the wretched being thus afflicted a single ray of consolation. His case was one of hopeless, unmitigated misery. The genius of "THE FATHER OF AMERICAN SURGERY" has triumphed even in this disease, which, up to his time, was looked to as a case of irremediable calamity; and the chain of reasoning which enabled him to accomplish this glorious achievement is so beautiful, and so truly philosophical, that I must be pardoned in shortly detailing it.

The *Artificial Anus* is produced by the protrusion of a portion of the intestine through the abdominal wall, and by the removal, by mortification or any other cause, of the loop of the gut which has protruded. From the continuous channel of the intestine being thus destroyed, its feculent contents can no longer follow their natural course, but must be discharged at the artificial opening; and as there is no sphincter muscle to retain them, and to allow only of their occasional discharge, the fæces ooze constantly from the wound, rendering the patient loathsome to himself, and disgusting to every one, even to his nearest and dearest relations. Although it is only from the upper portion of the intestine that the discharge takes place, both portions protrude from the external wound, and bear the same relation to each other as that which exists between the barrels of a double barrelled gun. Now this being their position, the following is the chain of reasoning which led Dr. Physick to his mode of treatment for the cure of this most loathsome disease. The outer coat of the gut is formed by the peritonæum, a serous membrane; and, as the two portions lie side by side, like the barrels of the gun, the surfaces in contact are serous surfaces. The interior of the intestines is lined by mucous membranes. We have, therefore, serous membranes exteriorly, and mucous membranes placed interiorly. The results of the inflammation of these two membranes are very different. In the inflammation of the serous membrane we have coagulable lymph secreted, and the inflamed serous surface is glued, as it were, to the surface with which it lies in contact. But in the inflammation of the mucous membrane we have, as a consequence, ulceration. Now, from the relations of the two portions of the intestines lying side by side, and from the phenomena attendant on their inflammation, if we produce a high degree of inflammatory action on the sides of the gut as they are placed in contact, the following results must of

necessity take place. The inflammation of the outer surfaces being attended with the effusion of coagulable lymph, the sides of the gut will be completely and inseparably united; and when this glueing together of the surfaces has been accomplished, the ulceration attendant on the inflammation of the mucous surfaces opens a direct lateral communication between the two portions of the intestine through which the descending fæces can pass more freely than through the external wound; and thus entering the lower portion, they are permitted to follow their natural course; and the external wound, no longer kept open by the discharges, closes, and the patient is cured. It is unnecessary, on the present occasion, to describe the operation performed by Dr. Physick for the accomplishment of his object; it is only necessary to state that it was completely successful.

This was, in truth, a glorious discovery; and does it not, I would ask, forcibly and irresistibly confirm and corroborate the lesson I am now desirous to inculcate—the value of anatomical knowledge? Had Dr. Physick not devoted his days and his nights to the dissecting room, would he have ever been qualified to confer so rich a boon on suffering humanity, or have raised up for his own fame so imperishable a monument?

As an operator, I have never known Dr. Physick surpassed, and I have been personally and intimately acquainted with most of the distinguished surgeons of modern times. He entered on the performance of his operations with calmness and deliberation, with his mind so prepared for every untoward event which might occur, that it was impossible for him to lose his self-possession. He felt and sympathised with the suffering and the pain he was compelled to inflict, and, in the hour of his patient's agony, he would soothe him by the kindest, the gentlest, the most affectionate assurances of his safety. O! how different from the conduct of some men who would arrogate to themselves the name of surgeons!—men whose minds are absolutely brutalized—who feel no sympathy with their patients, and who, when their victims lie before them writhing in agony, and compelled to give utterance to their sufferings, instead of soothing, will answer them with curses and imprecations. Such men are unworthy of the name of surgeons. The curse of Cain should be branded on their foreheads, and they should be banished forever, not

only from their profession, but from the society of the good and the virtuous.

Eminent as Dr. Physick was as an operator, he still held this, the most showy part of surgery, in the lowest estimation. We are told by the biographer of Hunter, that that distinguished surgeon was in the habit of saying, " To perform an operation is to mutilate a patient we cannot cure; it should therefore be considered as an acknowledgment of the imperfection of our art." His pupil entertained precisely similar sentiments; and I recollect perfectly that he, in conversing with me on the subject, shortly after my arrival in this country, used nearly the same expressions, telling me that he considered a surgical operation as an opprobrium to the science, and that he believed that when the science was perfected, surgical operations would seldom be required. How zealously and how faithfully did he labour to bring about this most desirable consummation, is known to every one at all conversant with the history of modern surgery. Hundreds, aye I may say thousands, have been saved from amputation, from the improved system of treatment which he introduced into practice for the cure of diseased joints; and his improvements in the other departments of surgical treatment have, in an astonishing degree, diminished the necessity for the performance of surgical operation.

In his intercourse with his brethren, Dr. Physick was most manly and most liberal. He stated with candour his own sentiments, and listened with deference to the opinions of others, and allowed them their full value. Standing, as he did, on a pinnacle which was unapproached and unapproachable, he was more modest and less self-opinionated than many a junior surgeon. In consultation, how delicately did he dissent to the system previously pursued! how clearly by his reasonings did he satisfy those with whom he consulted as to the correctness of his views, and the justness of the alterations in the treatment which he suggested! and how sedulously did he conceal from the friends of the patient that there had existed between him and their family physician any difference of opinion!

The person of Dr. Physick was strongly indicative of his character. No man who was ever in his company could ever again forget his presence. His figure was rather under than over the common height; it was slight, but, on the whole, graceful. It was, however,

on the "temple of the soul," in his noble head, where the strong delineation of his character was portrayed by Nature's chisel. His broad, expanded forehead, his aquiline nose, his compressed lips, and his round Grecian formed chin, appeared, from the pallid hue of his countenance, sculped in cold Parian marble; but the eye, full of thought, pensive, mild, and penetrating, shed the influences of life, energy, and feeling, over a countenance otherwise deathlike. For many years himself the victim of disease and suffering, and, from the nature of his pursuits, brought into hourly association in the chambers of death with scenes the most heart-rending to which our nature is subject; the subduing influences of melancholy had a saddening effect on the expression of his countenance and the tone of his character. But, although little given to cheerfulness, there was nothing of misanthropy or severity in his disposition. On the contrary, it was full of gentleness and tenderness. A sufferer himself, he sympathised most deeply, most sincerely with the sufferer, and devoted his whole life and the whole energies of his mind to the mitigation of the pains and miseries of mortality.

But I must pause: my time will permit me no longer to eulogise the character of an individual so loved, so admired, and so cherished during his life—and so deeply, so sincerely regretted and deplored on his death.

Dr. Physick requires no eulogist to publish his fame and to sound forth his praises; and, like the "FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY," he requires no splendid mausoleum to perpetuate his memory. Washington—the immortal Washington—having won for his countrymen the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty, shall live in the hearts and affections of Americans until the last trumpet shall sound, and the Angel declare that TIME is at an end. And as long as medical and chirurgical science is cultivated in these United States, be it through one thousand or ten thousand generations of our race, so long shall the memory of Physick be held in grateful reverence by the profession.

My young friends, I would now, in conclusion, counsel you to select the character of this illustrious individual as a model for your imitation. It is true it is a very lofty one; but, as I told you already this evening, you cannot fix your standard for virtuous emulation and distinction too high. I have no doubt that the departed Physick,

on entering on his profession, selected as his model his illustrious preceptor, the "FATHER OF BRITISH SURGERY;" and, as a consequence of the zeal and ardour with which he pursued his object, he has earned for himself a title not less noble, not less dignified than that of his great exemplar. He has been, and will continue for ever to be named, "THE FATHER OF AMERICAN SURGERY."

Col John Spring
Saco
Maine